

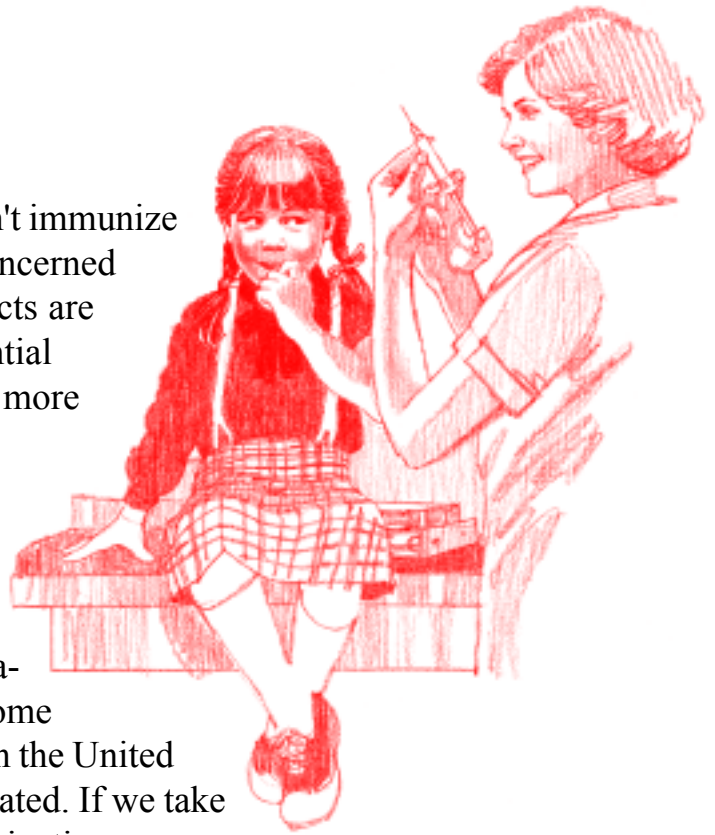
Childhood Immunization

Maternal and Child Health Fact Sheet

The Problem

Although some parents don't immunize their children because they are concerned about side effects, most side effects are very rare and minor. In fact, potential infection from the disease causes more risk to children than any potential side effects.

Children need immunizations to protect them from dangerous childhood diseases, which can cause serious complications and even death. Although some diseases are becoming very rare in the United States, most have not been eliminated. If we take away the protection given by vaccination, more and more children will become infected and spread the disease to others.

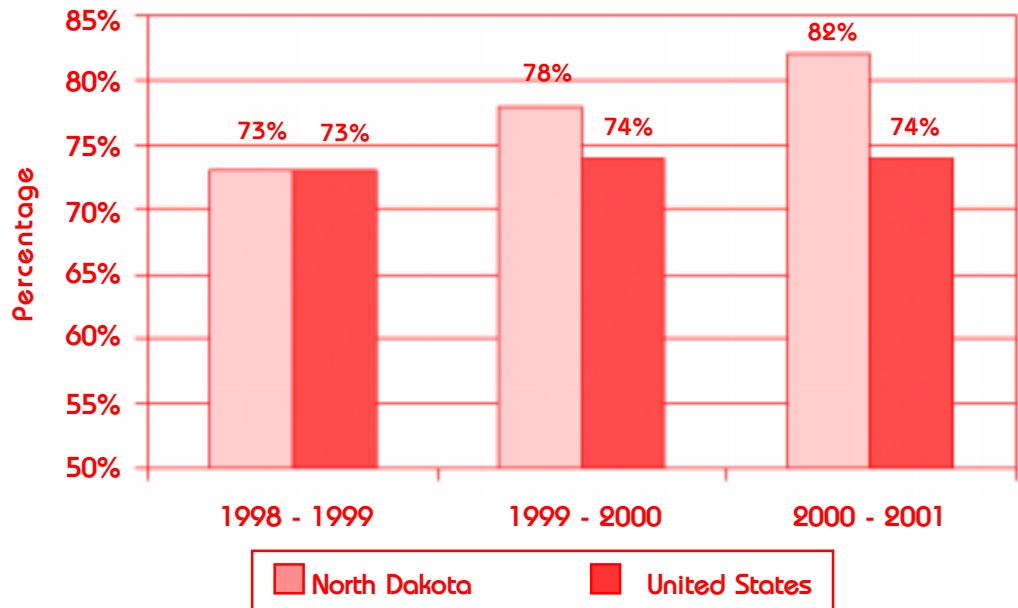


North Dakota Statistics

- From 1995 through 2000, the percentage of North Dakota children who were fully immunized* by age 3 was higher than the national percentage.
- In 2001, North Dakota ranked first among all 50 states in the percentage of 3 year olds who were fully immunized, up from 25th in 1998.
- All North Dakota providers are enrolled in the Vaccine for Children (VCF) program. Between 1997 and 2000, children who received their vaccinations from providers who participate in the VCF program had higher rates of immunization than children who did not.

**Full immunization status is considered to be completion of the 4:3:1:3:3 series before reaching age 3. The series consists of four or more doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxins and pertussis vaccines (DTP), three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, one or more doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine or measles-containing vaccine (MCV), three or more doses of Haemophilus influenza type b vaccine (Hib), and three or more doses of Hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine.*

Percentage of Children Fully Immunized by Age 3
North Dakota and United States, 1998-2001*



* Based on national Immunization Survey data

The Response

The North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, has developed a work plan to increase immunization rates for children. MCH will work collaboratively with the department's Immunization Program and will provide funding and training for the administration of immunizations to local agencies and organizations.



Data Sources:

- National Immunization Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/nip



North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Maternal and Child Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 301
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200
701.328.2493 or 1.800.472.2286
www.health.state.nd.us